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February 14, 1984

TO:

White House - Ms. Pam Turner (Legislative Affairs)

OVP - Mr. Donald Gregg
NSC - Mr. Robert Kimmitt
AID - Mr. Mark Edelman
CIA

DOD - COL John Stanford
JCS - CDR Timothy Hartung

OMB - Mr. Alton Keel
UNA - Mr. Harvey Feldman

SUBJECT:

SIG Meeting on Legislative Strategy for

Central America

Deputy Secretary Dam will chair a SIG meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 3:30 p.m., to discuss legislative strategy for Central America. An agenda for the meeting is attached.

The SIG will meet in Room 7219 of the Department of State. Please telephone the names of your agency's representatives to Sheila Lopez, 632-5804.

for Charles Hill Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Agenda for SIG Meeting.



B-223B.

CENTRAL AMERICA LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY SUGGESTED SIG AGENDA ITEMS

I. PHASES OF OUR STRATEGY

- 1. Timetable for planned Congressional consideration of the legislation attached.
- 2. First Phase: mid-February to mid-March:
 - -- Focus on Members of the HFAC and Doc Long Subcommittee.
 - -- Full briefings for about 30 key bipartisan leaders & Committee chairmen.
 - -- Briefings of other Members in groups (caucuses, study groups, Coleman House Republican Task Force, etc.)
- 3. Second Phase: mid-March to mid-April:
 - -- Focus on swing Members of the full House; all Members of the SFRC; and Leadership of the Budget Committees.
 - -- Continue regular contact with the 30 key leaders.
 - -- Full update briefings for all House supporters in groups.
- 4. Third Phase: mid-April to mid-May:
 - -- Focus on the full Senate (Authorization Bill).
 - -- Begin focus on the full House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.
- 5. Fourth Phase: mid-May through June:
 - -- Focus on full House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

II. ORGANIZATION

1. Creation of the SIG

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2. Creation of Working Group

III. KEY ELEMENTS OF ACTION PLAN

- 1. Assignment of individual contacts to the 25 key leaders on a continuing basis.
- 2. Focus on all other members in phases.
- 3. Use of joint interagency teams for briefing members in groups, and some of the individual targets on key committees. Teams to include representatives of State, AID and DOD, for example, tailored to interests of groups or members.
- 4. Assignment of individual contacts to members of key committees (HFAC members, for example, in Phase I) on an ad hoc basis.
- Coordination with outside interest groups (AFL-CIO, Council of the Americas, C/CCA, etc).
- 6. Use of Bipartisan Commission Members

IV. PARTICIPATION OF WHITE HOUSE AND NSC

V. DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO CONTENT

VI. NEEDED MATERIALS

- 1. Recommended approach: key talking points and themes for briefers.
- Fully descriptive briefing book, with tabed sections on all sections of bill, one page description of each, and talking points.
- Detailed tie-in with NBCCA report how the bill embodies it (for handout).
- 4. Talking Points on Key Issues: Absorptive capacity; levels of military aid requested; importance of the package as a whole (for handout).

TIMETABLE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF

CENTRAL AMERICA INITIATIVE

February 10-21:

-- Congress in recess.

February 21-29:

- -- Hearings and mark-up in HFAC Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs. (Full Committee will not bypass Subcommittee, according to Chairman Fascell).
- Senate Budget Committee to begin consideration of FY-85 Budget Resolution.

March 1-9:

- -- Mark-up in full HFAC. (firm)
- -- Will probably be combined with full FY-85 foreign aid request and FY-84 Supplemental requests in one bill.

March 13-15:

- -- House Leadership target date for floor consideration and vote (highly optimistic, in our view).
- -- House Budget Committee to begin hearings and mark-up of FY-85 Budget Resolution.

March 21:

-- Doc Long Subcommittee to begin hearings on Central America Appropriations requests. Mark-up likely in April.

March 27:

-- SFRC to begin hearings and mark-ups.

April 12:

-- Senate Leadership target date for completion of Committee mark-up.

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April 13-23:

-- Easter Recess

April 23-30:

-- Senate Leadership target date for floor consideration and vote.

May

- -- Full House Appropriations Committee to mark-up FY-84 supplemental and FY-85 foreign aid requests.
- -- Senate Appropriations Committee action likely in same timeframe.

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